



Branching Out

September 11, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

TREE meetings:

Next Thursday, September 17!

September 17 Meeting: Northumberland County Library in Heathsville from 11 to 2pm. Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Kirwin, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*.

The Winter meeting will be at Friends of the Rappahannock. Details coming soon!

Start thinking of nominations for officers. It is certainly OK to nominate yourself!

Next spring I will have been president for 2 years, and I think it is fair to give someone else a chance.

Local Events:

A joint Project Underground/Project WILD Facilitator training is being planned on the Northern Neck for the week after Thanksgiving. Details in the next issue of Branching Out.

Other Events:

Project Learning Tree Workshop

October 23rd, 9am-4pm, Norfolk Botanical Garden

www.cnr.vt.edu/plt/

Bring the forest into the classroom with Project Learning Tree activities! With topics ranging from forests, wildlife, and water, to community planning, waste-management and energy, PLT is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. PLT strengthens their critical thinking, team building, and problem solving skills. The 402-page PLT Activity Guide contains 96 hands-on activities for PreK-8, and is correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

The workshop is free; registration required by October 2nd to Holly Carson at holly.carson@norfolk.gov or 441-1347

Project WILD

November 4th, 9am-4pm, Virginia Zoo

www.projectwild.org

This program emphasizes wildlife because of its intrinsic and ecological values, as well as its importance as a basis for teaching how ecosystems function. The Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide focuses on wildlife and habitat. Each is organized in topic units and instructors

may use one or many Project WILD activities or the entire set of activities to serve effectively as the basis for a course of study.

The workshop is free; registration required by October 21st to Holly Carson at holly.carson@norfolk.gov or 441-1347

Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course

January 24th-29th, 2010, Founder's Inn & Spa, Virginia Beach

Known as one of the nation's most comprehensive horticulture educational programs, it features national speakers, educational sessions and hands-on workshops related to the horticulture and landscape management Industries.

Highlighted speakers include Nina Bassuk, Cornell University; Scott Calhoun, author, Designer Plant Combinations; Bernie Erven, Ohio State, Professor Emeritus; Jon Goldman, Brand Launcher; Jeff Lowenfels, author, Teaming with Microbes; Mary Palmer Dargan, ASLA, author, Timeless Landscape Design.

Programs and registration forms will be available on the web site www.mahsc.org in the fall. For more info call 757-523-4734 or via email to info@mahsc.org.

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Virginia Naturally - September

The September Newsletter has been posted to the website at <http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/septembernews09.htm>

Climate Change, Wildlife and Wildlands Toolkit

Designed for middle school students; introduce your students to the impacts of climate change and the impacts that climate change has on the environment and how it impacts wildlife. This video and toolkit was created by a partnership with the following organizations: US Bureau of Land Management, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Oceanic Administration, US National Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Atmospheric Park Service. <http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/toolkit>

Tools with a Cost:

New Release from Bullfrog Films: Homo Toxicus

Directed by Carole Poliquin. Produced by Carole Poliquin and Isaac Isitan.

Carried out with intelligence and humor, Homo Toxicus explores the myriad links between toxic substances and increasing health problems such as cancer, allergies, hyperactivity, and infertility. Interviews with industry scientists and independent researchers shed light on inconsistent

standards used for evaluation and regulation of chemical agents. The findings are disturbing and strongly challenge us to re-evaluate the laws and procedures currently in place to safeguard our health against man-made chemicals and potential environmental pollutants. Film is appropriate for grades 10 and above. <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/homo.html>

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

New website to register your volunteer projects

President Obama has recently unveiled an initiative calling on all Americans to help in our nation's recovery by volunteering in their communities this summer. The President's call to summer service launches United We Serve, a sustained effort to expand the size and impact of volunteer efforts in addressing tough challenges facing the nation.

To make it easy for Americans to get involved, the President is urging Americans to visit [Serve.gov](http://www.Serve.gov). Visitors to [Serve.gov](http://www.Serve.gov) can type in their zip code to find local volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers by [registering their organization's projects](#), or get [ideas for creating their own projects](#) with friends, families, and neighbors. Plan a project, join a project and register your project at www.serve.gov.

Jobs

Environmental Educator, Full Time (Click here for more information)

Description:

Position Summary: Implement a wide variety of environmental education programs by providing formal and informal guest experiences primarily at the Robins Nature and Visitors Center, but also throughout the Maymont grounds.

Responsibilities:

É Assist in the development and implementation of an extensive annual schedule of environmental education programs

É Assist in the recruitment, training, and supervision of volunteers and interns and coordinate resources for all education programs.

É Participate in the implementation of educational guest experiences in the Nature Center gallery.

É Other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience required: Minimal requirement is a degree in environmental

education or related field with 1 year experience in environmental education, natural history interpretation or closely related discipline. Bachelor or Master's degree preferred. A well-rounded basic knowledge of VA wildlife, habitats and other environmental topics is also required.

Skills/Abilities required: Strong speaking, writing and organizational skills. Experience or a willingness to learn handling tame domestic or exotic animals including insects and reptiles. Computer literate. Entrepreneurial spirit to seek and maintain fee-based programs.

Working Conditions: Ability to work weekend, holiday and occasional evening hours required. Valid driver's license. Will be required to pass scheduled Basic First Aid and CPR employer-provided training.

*Please see website for full job description.

Job Type: Full Time permanent

Salary Detail: Commensurate with experience plus excellence benefits package

Deadline: 9-17-2009

Organization: [Maymont](#)

Location: Richmond, VA

Contact Person: Kate Jarrell

Phone: (804) 358-7166

E-Mail: employment@maymont.org

Mailing Address: 1700 Hampton Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov